



# Seasons Greetings!



## Annual Holiday Celebration

Santa Claus arrives in town on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3 pm at the North Avenue Train Station to kick off the holiday season! Families are invited to come and enjoy an afternoon of music, holiday crafts and refreshments—all for free. Every child who stops by to say hello to Santa will get a free Polaroid picture of his or her visit. Contests will be held with prizes for the winners. The Celebration concludes at 5 pm when the Mayor lights the Fanwood town tree on the train station lawn. Sponsored by the Fanwood Recreation Commission.

### Lions Club Christmas Tree Sale



The Lions Club of Fanwood will again be selling Christmas trees from

December 1<sup>st</sup> until the 24<sup>th</sup> in LaGrande Park from 6:30 pm until 9 pm during weekdays and from 9 am until 9 pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Wreaths and garlands will also be offered for sale. Proceeds go to three \$1,500 scholarships offered to Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School graduating seniors as well as to various charities. The trees come from all over the country, from Washington State and down south and as far north as Canada. When the holiday is over and good little boys and girls are finished with them, the trees will be picked up by the Department of Public Works beginning January 2<sup>nd</sup> until January 25<sup>th</sup>. PLEASE DO NOT TIE THE TREES. They will be ground up to make mulch (available to all) and the string or cord used to tie them creates a problem when grinding. Wreaths or garlands are not acceptable for the pickup. Remember that holiday cards, wrapping paper, boxes and cartons are recyclable and should be taken to the Fanwood Recycling Center.

### Luminary Sale

The Rotary Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains will once again host the annual Holiday Luminary Sale beginning on December 8<sup>th</sup>.



Originating in Mexico, Christmas luminary candle lighting has now become a rich heritage and tradition in our country. Luminaries adorning the streets of Fanwood began in 1984 by Bill Lehman of the Kiwanis Club. The F-SP Rotary assumed responsibility for the sale in 2005 and it continues to grow and flourish today.

*(continued on Page 2)*

### Tiny Tim Carol Night



Turn on your porch lights on Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> to let carolers for the Tiny Tim Fund know they are welcome. Carolers will be traveling throughout Fanwood and Scotch Plains to raise money for the non-profit organization. For the second year in a row, the Stage House in Scotch Plains will open its doors as a gathering point where participants can drop off their proceeds and enjoy hot chocolate and brownies.

Founded in 1983, Tiny Tim provides financial assistance to medically needy local children up to age 18 when care cannot be provided due to temporary or long-term financial difficulties. Last year approximately 30 groups participated. Groups can be two people or two dozen. If you have any questions or would like to participate, contact Barbara Anilo at (908) 322-4472.





## Meet Councilwoman Donna Dolce

I am pleased and humbled that the citizens of Fanwood have given me the privilege and honor of serving the community as their Councilwoman. As I move into the middle of my second term I am amazed and thrilled by the many accomplishments that have occurred to benefit the citizens of Fanwood during this time period.

I have long known that giving back to the community is a good thing for society and one of the best residual benefits is that volunteering has also expanded my world, provided me with an incredible sense of accomplishment and has brought me in contact with some of the most fascinating and talented individuals one could hope to meet.

When people from outside of Fanwood ask what makes our town such a great place to live, the simple answer is great community involvement! In fact, I believe every place in the world can be just as great if everyone made a similar contribution to their community. As the famous anthropologist, Margaret Mead observed "A small group of thoughtful people can change the world, indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

I am also thrilled that I can bring the same full spectrum of experiences that I use every day as the CEO of the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council to benefit where I live. During my tenure, I have utilized my experience as a grant writer and fund raiser to identify and bring new grant possibilities to the borough. My event planning experience has been most helpful in working on the past four Fannywood Day celebrations, communication has dramatically improved through the use of town hall meetings, working closely on the Fanwoodian and currently on updating the Fanwood website.

Perhaps the greatest achievement during this time frame has been bringing to life the vision created in our municipal Strategic Plan, a committee I chaired nearly a decade ago. Encapsulated in the plan is both the

*(continued on Page 7)*

## Luminary Sales

*(continued from Page 1)*

Luminaries cost 50¢ each and include the bag, candle and sand - everything you need to light up the streets and sidewalks of Fanwood.



Luminaries can be purchased at the Department of Public Works Building, located across from the library on the following dates and times:

December 8, 15, 16, 22 & 23 from 9 am to 3 pm  
December 24 from 9 am to 12 Noon

Please bring a bucket or other container to transport the sand.

Proceeds from the sale go to local charities supported by the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club  
For more information please contact Neil Schembre at (908) 889-9500



Governor Jon S. Corzine  
signed  
Assemblywoman Linda Stender's  
Global Warming Response Act into law this summer  
during the  
"Live Earth Concerts to Promote  
Global Climate Change" at the Meadowlands

## Senior Sidelights

Thank you to the one-hundred ninety-four respondents to the "Senior Citizens/Residents with Special Needs Registry Survey." This registration provides the Senior Coordinator, Paulette Drogan, and the First Responders, Police, Fire, Rescue Squad and OEM with the information necessary to assist the registrants with social activities, meeting medical/physical needs, evacuation methods and notification of emergency contact. Please consider registering. We are waiting to help.

Mr. James Peeney, President of the Fanwood Seniors Club, provided the Mayor and Council with a very interesting presentation regarding the benefits seniors receive as members of the "Club".

Medicare D: Remember each year between November 15<sup>th</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> you must decide on a Medicare D provider for your prescriptions. Contact [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov), 1-800 Medicare (1-800 644-4227) for information or call the Union County SHIP (908) 273-6999 with questions.

Congratulations to James Peeney who, on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007, was presented the "Volunteer of the Month" award by the Mayor and Council for serving as President of the Fanwood Seniors Club.

Feel free to contact Joan Wheeler at [joanw@visitfanwood.com](mailto:joanw@visitfanwood.com) for information related to life as a senior in Fanwood.

**Important  
DATE!**

June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 is the date for the Fanwood Business & Professional Association's annual Street Fair.

Learn more about what's happening in 2008 with the businesses in Fanwood, FYO Baseball, the Cougar Car Club and much more on the web at [www.Fanwood.Biz!](http://www.Fanwood.Biz!)



## A Message From Mayor Colleen Mahr

A lovely fall in Fanwood will soon give way to winter. Every time I sit down to write my column I marvel at how quickly time goes by. Please mark your calendars so that you do not miss our annual Holiday Celebration on Sunday December 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Historic Train Station. It is sure to be a wonderful fun-filled family day, one not to be missed. Look for more information inside this Fanwoodian.

As we wrap up 2007 I am very happy that our sidewalk replacement program all along Martine Avenue was completed with a "NJ Safe Routes to School" grant. New sidewalks and curbing were also completed along Marian Avenue and McDermott Place. This has gone a long way to ensure our children are walking safely around LaGrande Park.

I have truly enjoyed serving as your Mayor over the last four years. As my own family has grown, now to three lively boys, so too has my love and dedication to Fanwood. As I head into my second term, I will continue to work hard to ensure that the charm and character of our neighborhoods are never jeopardized, that the community-backed vision of our downtown re-development is realized and that improvements to our sidewalks, streets and parks are continued while we aggressively seek every opportunity for property tax relief. I look forward to continuing to receive great work from our dedicated Council members who truly give all of you so much of their time and energy.

I would like to extend a personal invitation to join me at the Borough's annual Reorganization Meeting on Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> which will be held in the Council Chambers. A reception with light beverages will follow the meeting.

There is much to be thankful for in Fanwood. We live in a wonderful safe community in which many of your neighbors volunteer their time on the numerous boards and commissions, Fire Department, Rescue Squad or CERT Team. If you want to join any of them, please reach out for me at [mayor@visitfanwood.com](mailto:mayor@visitfanwood.com) or call me at 908-322-8236.

Stay well and make sure to stop, slow down and enjoy the holidays with your family and friends.

## Season's Greetings From The Recycling Association

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Recycling Association is happy to announce that the Recycling Center will officially be open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm through this Holiday Season and through the year 2008 with the exception of July 5, 2008. Other unplanned closings would only occur in case of an extreme blizzard or hot spell.

Please don't forget that the wrapping paper you have left over after Christmas can be recycled - just put it with your mixed paper and junk mail. Boxes and cartons are also desirable for recycling.

The Recycling Association sends holiday greetings to all. Many thanks to those who have helped so much in making the Recycling Center an example to other municipalities and in making Fanwood's recycling figures among the highest in the State. We couldn't do it without you!

### Fanwood Library

The Fanwood and Scotch Plains Library

are busy moving forward with their study to determine the future needs

of the library system to serve the residents of both communities. Focus groups were held during the months of September and October and additional Town Hall meetings are planned for early spring.



Residents are encouraged to stay abreast of the many items under consideration to reach a decision about the future library system by visiting the

website at [www.thejointlibrary.org](http://www.thejointlibrary.org). Ultimately, the final decision will rest with the residents who will vote via referendum on the final recommendation. Your questions, concerns and input are welcomed!

## Who Is This Fanwoodian?



Former teacher and guidance counselor in the Fanwood-Scotch Plains school system, retiring in 1998 after 25 years in education, mother of five and grandmother of seven, trips to England, Hungary and Guatemala to visit

three of her children, these are just a few of the ongoing accomplishments of this issue's "Fanwoodian" :

- Douglass College graduate and recipient of an MEd in Pupil Personnel Services from Rutgers Graduate School of Education;
- Member of the Fanwood Historic Preservation Commission for eight years;
- One of three writers of the book "Images of America: Fanwood" in 2001;
- Assisted in the opening of the Fanwood museum housed in the historic train station;
- Appeared on Channel 35 narrating tours of historic homes;
- Member of the Fanwood Cultural Arts Council;
- Performed and worked backstage with the "Philathalians", Fanwood's former community theater group, in the Patricia Kuran Cultural Arts Center;
- Served on the Board of Directors of the Scotch Plains Fanwood YMCA for 25 years. Presently on the Board of Trustees and the Endowment Committee and active in the current capital campaign;
- Works in the soup kitchen at Grace Church in Plainfield.

Of course, if all of this weren't enough, there's membership in the Douglass Alumnae Association, a love of antiques, reading, theater and gardening and, for a little restful escape, a shore house in Barnegat Light.

Who is this issue's "Fanwoodian?" Her picture and name follow on another page.

*(continued on Page 8)*

## Blood Drive December 28th!

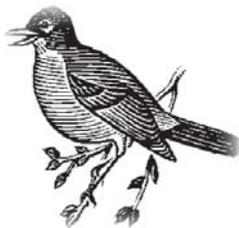


The Fanwood Rescue Squad is hosting a Blood Drive at their building on Friday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, from 3 pm to 8 pm in honor of their late member,

Bill Crosby, who ran the blood drives for years. This is a great gift to give during the upcoming holiday season.

## 2nd Annual Great Fanwood Bird Count

The Fanwood Environmental Commission will conduct their 2<sup>nd</sup>. Annual Great Fanwood Bird Count Workshop on Saturday, February 9, 2008. Birding activities will take place at the Fanwood Nature Center (off of Cray Terrace) in anticipation of the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). The GBBC is a national event held each year over the President's Day weekend (February 15-18, 2008) and is a joint project of the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.



Activities will include a birding workshop, learning to count birds for the GBBC, a guided tour of the Fanwood Nature Center, make & take bird crafts for kids which includes a participation certificate and patch, and much more.

For more information, please contact Kalpana Krishna Kumar at fanwoodgbbc@gmail.com.



## Licenses Due For Our Furry Friends!

Dog and cat licenses will need to be acquired or renewed between January 1<sup>st</sup> and January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008 at the clerk's office in Borough Hall. An unexpired rabies inoculation certificate is required. The fees for 2007 were as follows: \$7 for neutered dogs/\$10 for unneutered dogs; \$6 for neutered cats/\$9 for unneutered cats.

**\*Please note: the fees for 2008 are expected to increase slightly; please check with the clerk's office to confirm the amount of the 2008 fees.**

Mail requests will be honored as long as a self-addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed along with the appropriate fee, a copy of the rabies inoculation certificate and the animal's name and address. These mail requests can be sent to the Clerk's Office, 75 N. Martine Ave. in Fanwood.

## Help make Fanwood Even Greater - Volunteer!

Fanwood's greatest strength is its people! In fact, if it were not for the dedicated volunteers on many of our commissions, committees and squads – we would be forced to employ a larger and more expensive workforce. Help keep Fanwood this great place to live AND keep your taxes low by volunteering to serve on one of Fanwood's Committees or Commissions!

There are over 20 different opportunities to choose from. If you have a special skill or interest and would like to be a part of what makes this great community so special, contact Mayor Mahr at Borough Hall 908-322-8236.

A few Committees and Commissions in particular need of volunteers are:

- Recreation Commission
- Environmental Commission
- Shade Tree Commission
- Library Board
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Cultural Arts Committee
- Communications Committee
- Community Events (Fanny Wood Day, Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween Parade, etc.)
- Board of Health

## Visitors Welcome at The Fanwood Museum!

The Fanwood Museum, which officially opened earlier this year, has announced its schedule. The museum will be open the first Sunday of the month from October to June from 2 – 4 pm.

Located in the Community House (on the North side of the Train Station), the museum houses a variety of artifacts chronicling the history of Fanwood, including extensive collections of Police and Fire Department memorabilia. The museum sign was created using wood from the beloved Fanwood oak.

Brochures are available at Fanwood Borough Hall, Fanwood Library and other locations around town. For more information, call Borough Hall at 322-8236.

## DPW Brush Program

The next brush program will begin on January 7<sup>th</sup> in the NE and NW quadrants. SE and SW quadrants will begin on January 14<sup>th</sup>. In accordance with New Jersey Stormwater Management regulations, brush may



not be placed in the street earlier than 7 days before the first day of your scheduled pickup. Brush or branches accumulated before or after the winter brush program **MAY NOT** be placed in the street. Residents are asked to store the brush on their property until the next pick up program.

## Meet Paulette Drogan, Senior Coordinator



Fanwood's newest member to its municipal family is Paulette Drogan who is now the Borough's part time Senior Coordinator. Paulette began work on August 1<sup>st</sup> and

is currently compiling the results of a survey that was distributed to our senior population asking for information on entertainment choices, transportation needs and any medical requirements. Paulette has six years experience working with senior populations and has been a Social Worker for over 18 years. She has earned certifications in Social Work, Gerontology and Advanced Gerontology through Rutgers' Continuing Education Program at the School of Social Work. Presently she is earning a certificate in Senior Services Management.

She also serves as Vice President at Large to the New Jersey Municipal Welfare Director Association and as Treasurer of the Union County Municipal Welfare Association. She is a member of the New Jersey Association of Senior Center Directors.

Paulette is married with four children, one proudly serving as a Sergeant in the Marine Corps stationed in Iraq.

## Annual Fanwood Council Reorganization



The Annual Reorganization of the Fanwood Council will take place on Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 starting at 12:00 Noon in the Council Chambers at Borough Hall. The swearing in of Mayor Colleen Mahr and council members Kathleen Mitchell and Anthony Parenti will take place at that time. The Mayor's Annual "State of Fanwood" address will be delivered and annual appointments to commissions and committees will be made. A reception with light beverages will follow the meeting.

All Fanwoodians are invited to attend.

## Snowy Roads On Snowy Days

The holiday season is fast approaching with snow not very far behind. Clint Dickson, Director of the Department of Public Works, reminds everyone that when snow is forecast, you should remove your cars from the streets wherever possible. When shoveling your driveway, put the snow to the right so the Borough snowplows can carry it away from your driveway. He also asks that you wait to shovel the last ten feet of your driveway until the snowstorm is over and the streets are plowed curb to curb. Do not blow or shovel your snow into the center of the road as this may freeze and cause a hazardous condition. Please shovel your sidewalk of snow and ice "within 12 hours of daylight after the snow has

fallen or formed thereon." Residents are also responsible for keeping the areas clear around fire hydrants in front of their properties. If you have elderly or homebound neighbors, please give them a hand in clearing snow and ice from these areas.



The Fanwood Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) web site at [www.FanwoodCERT.org](http://www.FanwoodCERT.org) has links to local school closing information, National Weather Service forecasts, plus links for traffic and transit web sites in our area. CERT recommends you stock your car with a number of safety items including an ice scraper, extra pair of gloves and a bag of cat litter. More details on how you can "winterize" your car for additional safety are also on the CERT web site.



## Blue Star Family Update

From our last issue, we want to recognize some additional Fanwoodians who are currently serving our country in various branches of the U.S. military. The Borough of Fanwood would like to honor and recognize their service to our country. In alphabetic order they are:

**Lt. Huckelberry Finne**, 29, of Farley Avenue, is serving in the U.S. Navy. He is a lifelong resident of Fanwood, attended School One, Park Middle School and SPF High School. He is a 2001 graduate of Rutgers University. He served three years aboard the USS Charlotte, a fast attack nuclear submarine home ported at Pearl Harbor, HI. He ended his service on the USS Charlotte with a voyage to the North Pole when the sub sailed from the Pacific to the Atlantic. Until recently he was a Navy ROTC instructor at SUNY Maritime College in NYC. He is currently beginning a six-month tour of duty in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

**Staff Sgt. Frank Schwartzberg**, 34, of Madison Avenue, is serving in the U.S. Army. He is a lifelong resident of Fanwood, attended School One, Park Middle School and SPF High School. He just finished a tour in Iraq and is returning to his home base at Ft. Sill in Lawton, Oklahoma. He has also served in Germany and South Korea, including service near the border of North Korea.

If you know of any other Fanwood Blue Star families, please contact Mike Prasad via e-mail at [mprasad@aol.com](mailto:mprasad@aol.com), so we can recognize their service in the Fanwoodian.

## Fanwood Recreation Plans for 2008 Summer Park Recreation Program

The Summer of 2007 saw Fanwood Recreation roll out a revamped Summer Park Recreation Program. The 6 week program, which ran from 9 am to Noon, Monday through Friday at LaGrande Park, provided children ages 5–12 with structured, fun-filled activities under the supervision of experienced counselors. Public response to this program was overwhelming, with every week reaching its 50 children capacity. Comments from children and parents who participated were consistently positive.



Fanwood Recreation is now actively planning its Summer 2008 program and is accepting applications for all positions ranging from program director to counselors. Please go to [www.visitfanwood.com/recreation](http://www.visitfanwood.com/recreation) to obtain position descriptions, or contact Fanwood Recreation Director Bob Budiansky at [Bob@visitfanwood.com](mailto:Bob@visitfanwood.com) or call 370-7092 for more information. Program registration for interested participants will start in March or April.

## Meet Councilwoman Dolce

*(continued from Page 2)*

redevelopment of our downtown, improved programs and services to our youth, young adults and seniors, preservation of our history and a viable communication system to keep our residents informed and provide them with a mechanism to communicate with their municipal leaders. With that plan nearing completion, many people ask if I'll be slowing down, to do more leisure activities that I enjoy such as golf and gardening. However, as my partner, Lynn Sorf, a Fanwood native and I believe, retirement will only provide us with more time to do what we love doing most, volunteering!

Perhaps, the next task on my list is to work on a new strategic plan for the next decade to ensure that Fanwood always remains a "great place to put down roots." Won't you join me by getting involved and volunteer?

### The Fanwoodian

Published quarterly by the  
Fanwood Communications Committee

Chairperson: Joan Feller  
Secretary: Sherman Feller  
Writers: Rosemarie Connors, Mike Prasad, Robert Sommerich, Lin Vlasaty,  
Bob Budiansky  
Layout: Pat Hoynes  
Council Liaison: Donna Dolce

Contributions, comments and volunteers are always welcome!  
75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood

# 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Visit to Fanwood's Children on Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>



Santa Claus will be making his annual visit escorted by the Fanwood Emergency Services Groups. Santa and his "honorary elves" will make their journey on December 15<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 11am.

If you are interested in having Santa bring a gift, all gifts are to be delivered to the Fanwood Police Headquarters on Martine

Avenue from Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, through Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Because Santa has to make his list and check it twice, late gifts will not be accepted. Santa asks that no gifts be larger than 12 inches by 12 inches because of space limitation on his "sleigh." Each gift must be wrapped tightly and securely and clearly labeled with the child's first and last name, address, & telephone number; and we ask that all packages for the same address be bundled together. It is extremely important that the labels are securely attached to the packages.



## Who Is This Fanwoodian?



**Carol Oakes!**

The annual Santa visit is a joint effort of the Fanwood Volunteer Fire Department, Fanwood Rescue Squad and the Fanwood Police Benevolent Association Local 123.

Volunteers gather the gifts, organize them into routes, and then help Santa load them up onto the fire engines and ambulances. Listen for the sirens on that Saturday!

*Happy Holidays!*

**Fanwood Borough Hall  
75 North Martine Avenue  
Fanwood, NJ 07023**

## Fanwood Community News

**Our Neighbors  
Fanwood, NJ 07023**



BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
FANWOOD, NJ  
PERMIT NO. 16